**Biblical Foundations – The Doctrine of Election and Reprobation (Pt.1)**

**When and why did God choose us? Are others not chosen?**

In previous lessons we shared the fact that all had sinned and deserve eternal punishment from God and the fact that Christ died and ***earned*** salvation for us. In this and the next few chapters we will examine the way God ***applies*** that salvation to our lives. In this lesson we introduce the doctrine of ***election***, that is, God’s decision to choose us to be saved before the foundation of the world. This act of election is part of the ***application*** of salvation to us since it came before Christ earned our salvation when he died on the cross. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss election at this point because it is chronologically the beginning of the process of God bringing salvation to us individually.

Other steps in God’s work of applying salvation to our lives include our hearing the gospel call, being regenerated by the Holy Spirit, responding in faith and repenting, God granting us forgiveness and accepting us as members in his family, growth in the Christian life, keeping us faithful to himself throughout life, at death leaving and going into his presence, and when Christ returns receiving resurrection bodies- it’s at the this point that the process of acquiring salvation is complete. Various theologians have given specific names and order to these events and collectively they are referred to as **“order of salvation.”**

**The Order of Salvation:**

1. **Election**- (God’s choice of people to be saved)
2. **Gospel Call**- (Proclaiming the message of the gospel)
3. **Regeneration**- (Being born again/ indwelling of Holy Spirit)
4. **Conversion**- (Believing and repenting)
5. **Justification**- (Right legal standing with God)
6. **Adoption**- (Membership in God’s family)
7. **Sanctification**- (Allowing the Holy Spirit to make us more like Christ)
8. **Perseverance**- (Remaining a Christian)
9. **Death**- (Going to be with the Lord)
10. **Glorification**- (Receiving a resurrected body)

We begin our discussion of the **“order of salvation”** with the first element, election. In connection with this we will also discuss **“reprobation,”** or the decision of God to pass over those who will not be saved, and to punish them for their sins. As we will discuss, election and reprobation are different in several important respects, and it is important to distinguish these so that we do not think wrongly about God or his inactivity.

We may define election as: ***an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.*** There has been much controversy in the church and much misunderstanding over this doctrine. Much of the controversy is in regard to man’s will and the justice of God with respect to human choices (God’s Providence). In this chapter we will focus on those questions that apply specifically to the doctrine of election.